

Patent
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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a patent application under 37 CFR 1.53(b):

INVENTOR(S): Yoshinori SHIBATA; Junichi MASUDATITLE: BATTERY POWERED TABLE SAWS

 This application is being filed without the declaration of the
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 This is a continuing application of prior Application No. /
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Enclosed are:

 X Specification
 X 11 Sheets of drawings
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 X Convention priority is claimed based on Japanese Application No.
10-194448, filed July 9, 1998.
 English Translation Document
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Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a battery powered table saw that has a table and a
saw unit vertically movably supported on the table.

Description of the Related Art

Known motor driven saws, excluding permanently installed floor models, are generally classified as either portable saws or table saws. Portable saws are generally adapted to rest on and move along a workpiece so as to cut the workpiece. Table saws have a table for placing a workpiece thereon and have a saw unit vertically movably supported on the table, which saw unit can be moved downward toward the workpiece on the table so as to cut the workpiece.

15 Some known portable saws have a battery powered motor. For example, U.S. Design Patent No. 363,656 teaches such a portable saw. However, known table saws are driven by an AC power source and the applicant is not aware of any attempts to produce a battery-driven table saw. For example, U. S. Patent No. 5,782,153 teaches such a table saw that is driven by an AC power source. Thus, known table saws all require that an electric cord

the saw unit or may serve as a balance weight for the entire table saw unit.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be readily understood after reading the following detailed description together with the accompanying drawings and the claims.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side view of a first representative embodiment of a table saw wherein the saw unit is in the uppermost position;

FIG. 2 is a side view of a second representative embodiment of a table saw wherein the saw unit is in the lowermost position;

FIG. 3 is a side view of a third representative embodiment of a table saw wherein the saw unit is in the uppermost position;

FIG. 4 is a plan view of the third representative embodiment, wherein the saw unit has been omitted;

FIG. 5 is a side view of a fourth representative embodiment of a table saw wherein the saw unit is in the uppermost position;

FIG. 6 is a side view of the fourth representative embodiment of a table saw wherein the saw unit is in the lowermost position;

FIG. 7 is a plan view of the fourth representative embodiment;

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battery mounted on the battery mounting device can serve as a counterweight to the saw unit moment.

In a fourth representative embodiment, the saw unit also may be vertically pivotable relative to the table around a pivotal axis, and the battery mounting device may be disposed on the saw unit in a position adjacent to the pivotal axis. The saw unit may have an upper stroke end and a lower stroke end. The position of the battery mounting device may be preferably chosen such that when the saw unit is at the upper stroke end, the battery center of gravity is positioned on one side of a vertical plane extending through the pivotal axis while the saw unit center of gravity is positioned on the other side of the vertical plane. Further, when the saw unit is at the lower stroke end, the battery center of gravity center is preferably positioned substantially within the vertical plane.

In a fifth representative embodiment, the saw unit also may include a blade case to partly cover the saw blade. In such design, the battery mounting device may be disposed on the blade case and, preferably, on one lateral side of the blade case opposite to the motor.

In a sixth representative embodiment, the handle and the battery mounting device and the motor may be positioned substantially within the same plane as the saw blade.

Preferably, the motor has a motor shaft that extends in parallel with a rotational axis of the saw blade and is spaced therefrom. The rotation of the motor shaft may be transmitted to the saw blade by means of a belt.

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Each of the additional features and method steps disclosed above and below may be utilized separately or in conjunction with other features and method steps to provide to provide improved table saws and methods for designing and using such table saws. Representative examples of the present invention, which examples utilize many of these
5 additional features and method steps in conjunction, will now be described in detail with reference to the drawings. This detailed description is merely intended to teach a person of skill in the art further details for practicing preferred aspects of the present teachings and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Only the claims define the scope of the claimed invention. Therefore, combinations of features and steps disclosed in the following
10 detail description may not be necessary to practice the invention in the broadest sense, and are instead taught merely to particularly describe some representative examples of the invention, which detailed description will now be given of six representative examples with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A first representative embodiment of a table saw will now be described with
15 reference to FIG. 1, which table saw has a circular table 3 that is horizontally rotatably supported on a base 2. The base 2 may have a pair of auxiliary tables 2a that are positioned on opposite sides in a diametrical direction of the table 3. Each of the auxiliary tables 2a may have an upper surface that is flush with an upper surface of the table 3. A fence 4 may be mounted between the auxiliary tables 3a over the table 3 to determine the position of the

workpiece on the table 3.

A pivotal support 5 may be fixedly mounted on a peripheral portion of the rear side of the table 3 (right side as viewed in FIG. 1). A pivotal arm 6 may be mounted on the pivotal support 5, so that the lateral pivotal arm 6 can be pivoted laterally (in a direction perpendicular to the vertical plane of FIG. 1) relative to the table 3. A saw unit 10 may be vertically pivotally mounted on an upper end of the pivotal arm 6 by means of a pivot pin 7.

The saw unit 10 may include a blade case 11 and a DC motor 12 mounted on one lateral side of the blade case 11. The DC motor 12 may have an output shaft (not shown), on which a saw blade 13 is mounted, so that the DC motor 12 can rotatably drive the saw blade 13. The blade case 11 preferably covers substantially half of the saw blade 13. A blade cover 14 may be movably mounted on the blade case 11 to cover and uncover the exposed half portion of the saw blade 13. More specifically, the blade cover 14 may be rotatably mounted on the blade case around the rotational axis of the saw blade 13 by means of a link mechanism 15 connected between the pivotal arm 6 and the blade case 11, so that the blade cover 14 can rotate in response to the vertical pivotal movement of the saw unit 10. Thus, when the saw unit 10 pivots downward, the blade cover 14 rotates in a direction to uncover the saw blade 13. As a result, the saw blade 13 may cut the workpiece placed on the table 3. On the other hand, when the saw unit 10 pivots upward, the blade cover 14 rotates in a direction to cover the saw blade 13.

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The DC motor 12 may be selected from the known types of DC motor that are commercially available. Preferably, the DC motor rotates at a speed of about 2,000 rpm and is driven by an 18 volt DC power supply.

Preferably, the table 3 can rotate in opposite directions from a reference position within a predetermined angle. Thus, in the reference position, the saw blade 13 extends within a plane that is perpendicular to the diametrical direction of the table 3 across the auxiliary tables 2a, and the pivotal support 5 is positioned in the rearmost position (rightmost position as viewed in FIG. 1).

Although not shown in FIG. 1, a compression coil spring may be interposed between the blade case 11 and the pivot arm 6 so as to normally bias the saw unit 10 upward. Thus, the operator will be required to press the saw unit 10 downward against the biasing force of the coil spring in order to perform the cutting operation.

A handle 16 may be mounted on a housing of the motor 12 so as to extend outward from the housing. A switch 17 may be mounted on the handle 16 and may be operable by the operator to start and stop the motor 12. A lock button 18 also may be mounted on the handle 16 and may be operable by the operator to lock the switch 17 in the "ON" position. A battery case 21 may be integrally formed with the handle 16 and may be disposed on the rear side (right side as viewed in FIG. 1) of the handle 16. A battery 20 may be mounted within the battery case 21 and may serve as a power source for driving the motor 12. The battery 20 may

(one shown in FIG. 1) that are mounted on the bottom of the battery case 21 and extend into the interior of the battery case 21 for connection to the battery 20. The terminals 21b are connected to a motor drive circuit including the motor 20 and the switch 17, so that the motor 12 can start to rotate the saw blade 13 when the operator turns on the switch 17. A discharge opening 21a may be formed in the battery case 21 adjacent to the bottom of the battery case 21, so that any foreign particles that have entered the battery case 21 can be exhausted to the outside. Of course, the foreign particles also may be exhausted through the open end of the battery case 21 when the lid 22 is opened.

According to the representative embodiment shown in FIG. 1, the motor 12 can be driven by the power supplied from the battery 20. Therefore, the table saw 1 can be used even in places in which AC power source outlets are not conveniently located. Thus, the operator is not restricted in his or her use of the battery powered table saw.

In addition, because the battery casing 21 is formed on the handle 16, the battery 20 may be positioned adjacent to the motor 12 and the switch 17. Therefore, the wiring length between the terminals 21b and the motor 12 can be shortened, and the wiring operation can be simplified.

Further, by closing the battery casing 21 with the lid 22, foreign particles, such as cutting chips, may be prevented from entering the battery casing 21. Therefore, problems, such as improper mounting of the battery 20 and improper conductive condition of the motor

drive circuit, can be reliably prevented. Moreover, because foreign particles entering the battery casing 21 may be discharged to the outside from the discharge opening 21a, the interior of the battery casing 21 can be kept free from foreign particles. Naturally, the lid 22 may be opened to discharge the foreign particles through the open end of the battery casing 21.

5 Second to sixth representative embodiments of table saws will now be explained with reference to FIGS. 2 to 10. In these drawings, like members are given the same reference numerals as in FIG. 1. In each of these representative embodiments, the table saw can be used in places, in which outlets are not provided. Thus, highly versatile and useful table saws are taught.

10 A second representative embodiment of a table saw is shown in FIG. 2, in which the DC motor 32 of the table saw 30 is driven by a battery 31 as the power source. In this design, a battery case 34 may be integrally formed with a front portion (left portion as viewed in FIG. 2) of a handle 33 that is operable by an operator for vertical pivotal movement of a saw unit 35. The battery 31 may have a pair of spring-biased push buttons 31a (one shown in FIG. 2) disposed on both lateral sides thereof. Each of the push buttons 31a may have an engaging claw 31b formed on its outer end. Therefore, the battery 31 may be mounted within and removed from the battery case 34 in the same manner as the first representative embodiment. Also, positive and negative power source terminals 34a are mounted on the bottom of the battery case 34 in the same manner as the first representative embodiment.

Because the battery casing 34 is located at the front portion of the handle 31, the battery 31 may be positioned to closer to the switch 17. Therefore, the wiring operation can be further simplified.

A third representative embodiment of a table saw will now be described with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, in which a battery 40 can be mounted on a base 41 that rotatably supports the table 3. More specifically, the battery 40 may be mounted on the front side (right side as viewed in FIGS. 3 and 4) of one of a pair of auxiliary tables 41a, which is positioned on the lower side as viewed in FIG. 4 or is positioned on one lateral side opposite to the motor 12 (not shown in FIGS. 3 and 4).

Thus, a battery case 41b is mounted within the front portion of the auxiliary table 41a disposed on the lower side as viewed in FIG. 4. A battery 40 may be inserted into and removed from the battery case 41b for charging. As in the first and second representative embodiments, the battery 40 may have a pair of spring-biased push buttons 40a on opposite sides thereof, so that the battery 40 can be removably held in position relative to the battery case 41b.

Also, positive and negative power source terminals 41c may be mounted on the bottom of the battery case 41b and may be connected to a motor drive circuit including the motor 12 (not shown in FIGS. 3 and 4) and a switch 47a that may be mounted on a handle 47 of a saw unit 46.

The fourth representative embodiment of a table saw will now be described with reference to FIGS. 5 to 7, in which a battery case 53 for mounting a battery 52 is disposed on the rear portion of a blade case 51 adjacent to the pivotal pin 7 or the pivotal axis of a saw unit 55. As in the previous representative embodiments, the battery 52 may have a pair of spring-biased push buttons 52a on opposite sides thereof, so that the battery 52 can be removably held in position relative to the battery case 53. Also, positive and negative power source terminals 53a may be mounted on the bottom of the battery case 53 for connecting to the motor drive circuit including the motor 12. Further, the table saw 50 of this embodiment may have the same handle 47 as the third embodiment, which handle includes the switch 47a and the lock button 47b.

Preferably, the battery case 53 is configured to extend rearwardly from the rear portion of the blade case 51, so that the battery 52 extends substantially horizontally or substantially in parallel to the upper surface of the table 3 when the saw unit 55 is in the uppermost position shown in FIG. 5. With this arrangement, the center of gravity G of the battery 52 may be positioned on the opposite side (left side as viewed in FIG. 5) of the saw unit 55 with respect to a vertical plane V that extends through the pivotal axis 7 of the saw unit 55. Alternatively, the battery center of center G may be positioned substantially within the vertical plane V or substantially above the pivotal axis 7 when the saw unit 55 is in the lowermost position as shown in FIG. 6. In other respects, the construction of the saw unit 55

can be the same as the saw unit 46 of the third representative embodiment.

By virtue of the arrangement of the battery case 53 adjacent to the pivotal axis 7 of the saw unit 55, the vertical pivotal operation of the saw unit 55 may be improved. Thus, when the saw unit 55 is in the uppermost position, the center of gravity G of the battery 52 is outside of the vertical plane V as shown in FIG. 5, so that the battery 52 may produce a moment to pivot the saw unit 55 in the counterclockwise direction as viewed in FIG. 5. Therefore, the battery 52 may serve as a counterweight to the moment in the clockwise direction produced by the weight of the saw unit 55. As with the first representative embodiment, the saw unit 55 can be biased by the compression spring (not shown), so that the saw unit 55 is held in the uppermost position with the aid of a stopper (not shown). Therefore, the moment produced by the battery 52 may serve to reliably hold the saw unit 55 in the uppermost position. As the operator pivots the saw unit 55 from the uppermost position to the lowermost position shown in FIG. 6, the moment applied by the battery 52 to the saw unit 55 in the counterclockwise direction gradually decreases to zero. Therefore, the moment of the battery 52 does not act against the pressing force to be applied to the workpiece during the cutting operation.

In other words, the biasing force of the spring applied to the saw unit 55 may be reduced because the moment of the battery 52 assists in holding the saw unit 55 in the uppermost position. Thus, the spring may have a smaller spring constant, which will enable

the operator to pivot the saw unit 55 for the cutting operation more easily. Therefore, the cutting operation can be easily and smoothly performed with less strain on the operator.

The fifth representative embodiment of a table saw will now be described with reference to FIGS. 8 and 9, in which a battery case 64 is formed on a blade case 63 of a saw unit 62 on the opposite side to the motor 12. More specifically, the battery case 64 for mounting a battery 61 is disposed on one of the side surfaces of the blade case 63 on the opposite side to the motor 12 and is adjacent the pivotal axis 7. Also, positive and negative power source terminals 64a may be mounted on the bottom of the battery case 64 for connection to the motor drive circuit. In other respects, the construction of the saw unit 62 (in particular, the handle 47) may be the same as the saw unit 46 of the third representative embodiment.

With this arrangement, the battery 61 may be positioned on the side opposite to the motor 12 with respect to the blade case 63. Therefore, the battery 61 may serve as a counterweight against the weight of the motor 12 so as to provide a weight balance to the saw unit 62.

The sixth representative embodiment of a table saw will now be described with reference to FIGS. 10 and 11, in which a belt 72 connects the output shaft of a DC motor 73 to a saw blade 72. This is a principal difference between the table saw 70 and the table saws 1, 30, 45, 50 and 60 of the first to fifth representative embodiments, in which the saw blade 13

is directly connected to the output shaft of the motor 12.

The table saw 70 may include a slide support mechanism 75 that permits a saw unit 80 to move in the horizontal direction or the direction parallel to an upper surface of a table 74, as well as the pivotal movement in the vertical direction. Thus, the support mechanism 75 includes a vertical support 83 and a sleeve 84. The vertical support 83 is laterally pivotally mounted on the rear end of the table 74 and has a slide shaft 85 secured to its upper end. The sleeve 84 is slidably movable relative to the slide shaft 85 and has a front end, on which the saw unit 80 is vertically pivotally mounted. The table 74 is horizontally rotatably mounted on a base 76 in the same manner as the previous representative embodiments. Preferably, a battery 82 may be mounted on a handle of the saw unit 80 and may be electrically connected to the motor 73.

By virtue of the incorporation of the belt 71 that transmits the rotation of the motor 73 to the saw blade 72, the motor 73, the battery 82 and the handle 81 may be arranged substantially in alignment with each other on the plane of the saw blade 72 as shown in FIG. 11. With this arrangement, a weight balance may be achieved between the right and left directions of the saw unit 80. In particular, because the motor 73 may be disposed equally on the right and left sides about the plane of the saw blade 72, the saw unit 80 may be permitted to pivot by substantially the same angle on both the right and left side directions when a cutting operation is performed with the saw blade 72 inclined in the lateral direction relative

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CLAIMS:

1. A table saw comprising:
- a table for placing a workpiece thereon;
- 5 a saw unit vertically movably supported on said table and having a saw blade mounted thereon;
- a battery-driven motor mounted on said saw unit for rotatably driving said saw blade; and
- a battery mounting device for mounting a battery on the table saw.
- 10
2. A table saw as defined in claim 1, wherein said saw unit has a handle operable by an operator for vertically moving said saw unit, and wherein said battery mounting device is disposed on said handle.
- 15
3. A table saw as defined in claim 2, wherein said handle has a switch mounted thereon, which switch is operable by the operator to start said motor, wherein said battery mounting device is disposed adjacent to said switch.
4. A table saw as defined in claim 1 further including a base for supporting said table,

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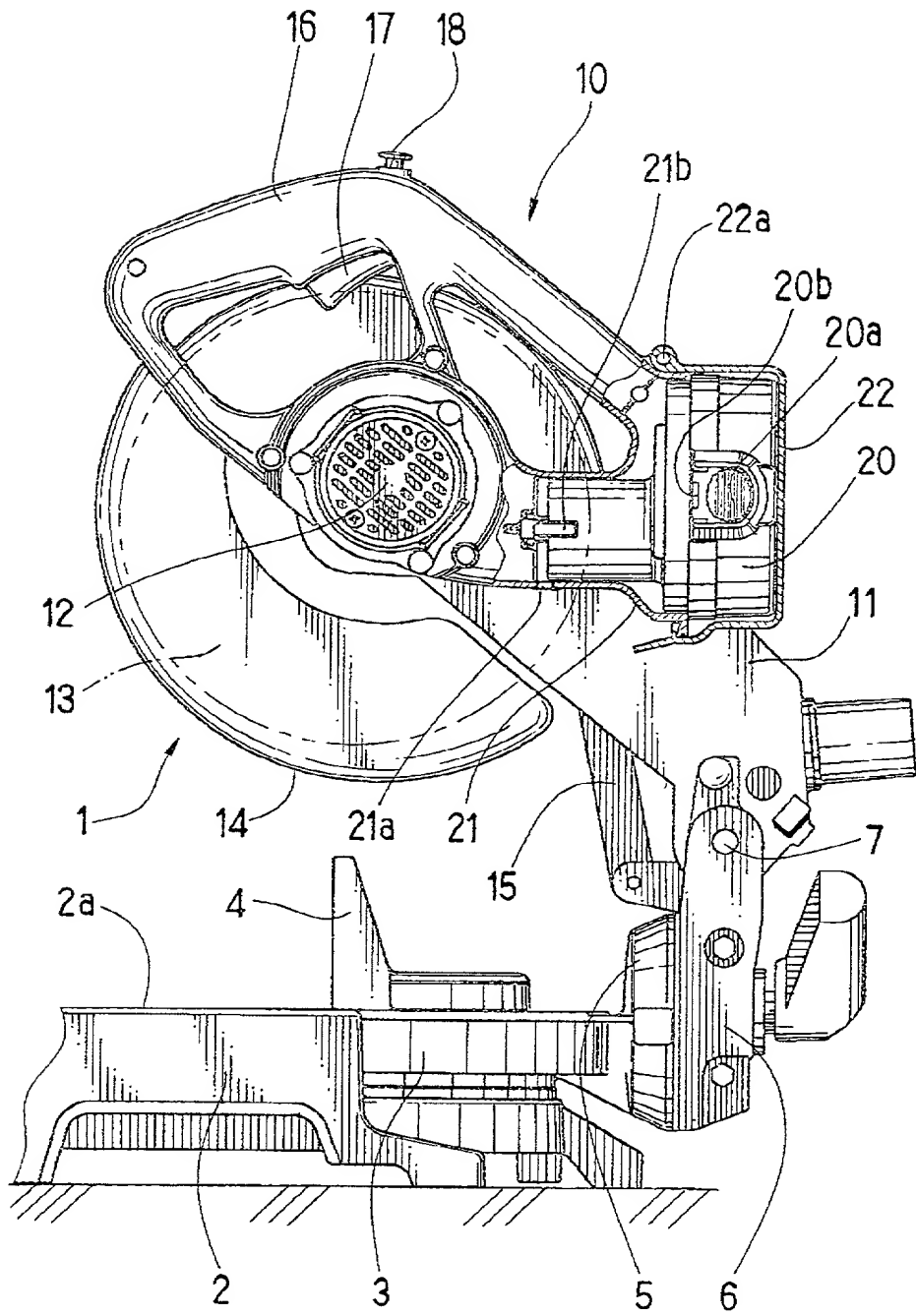
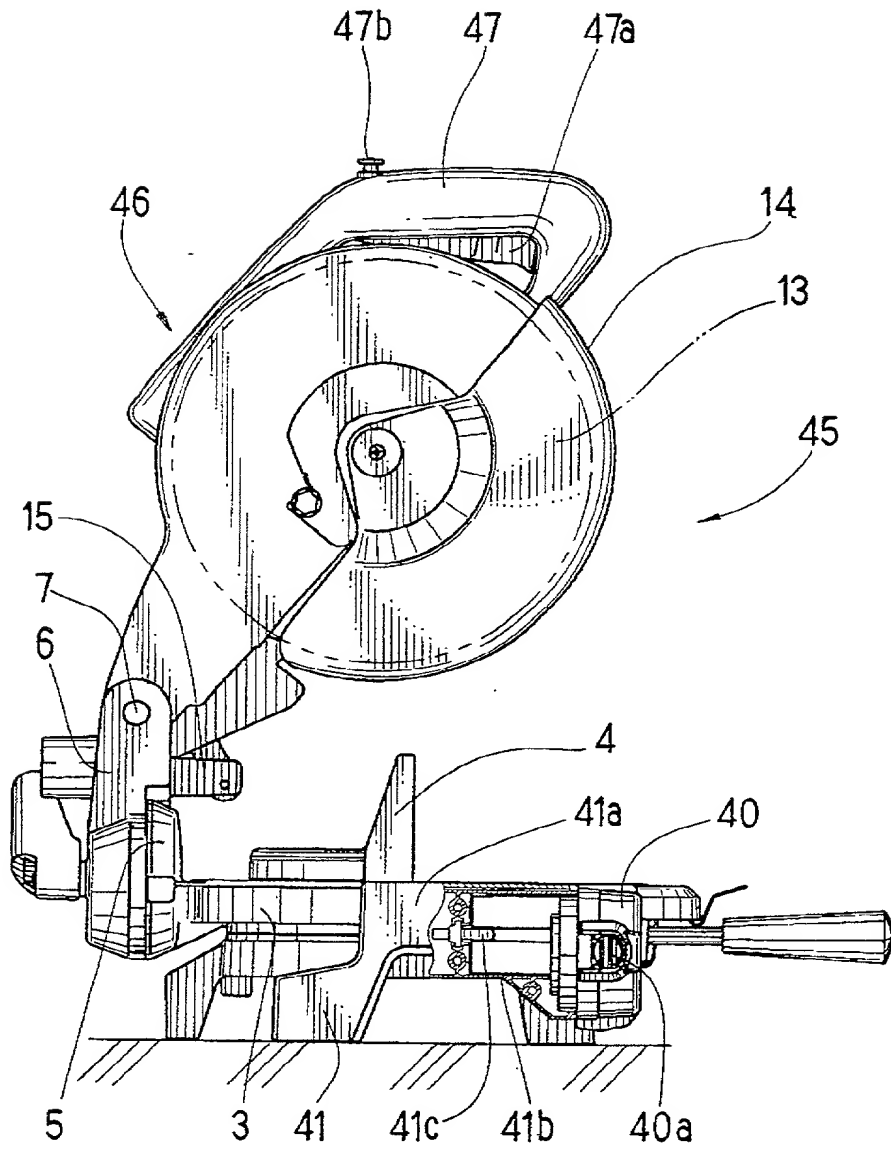


FIG.1





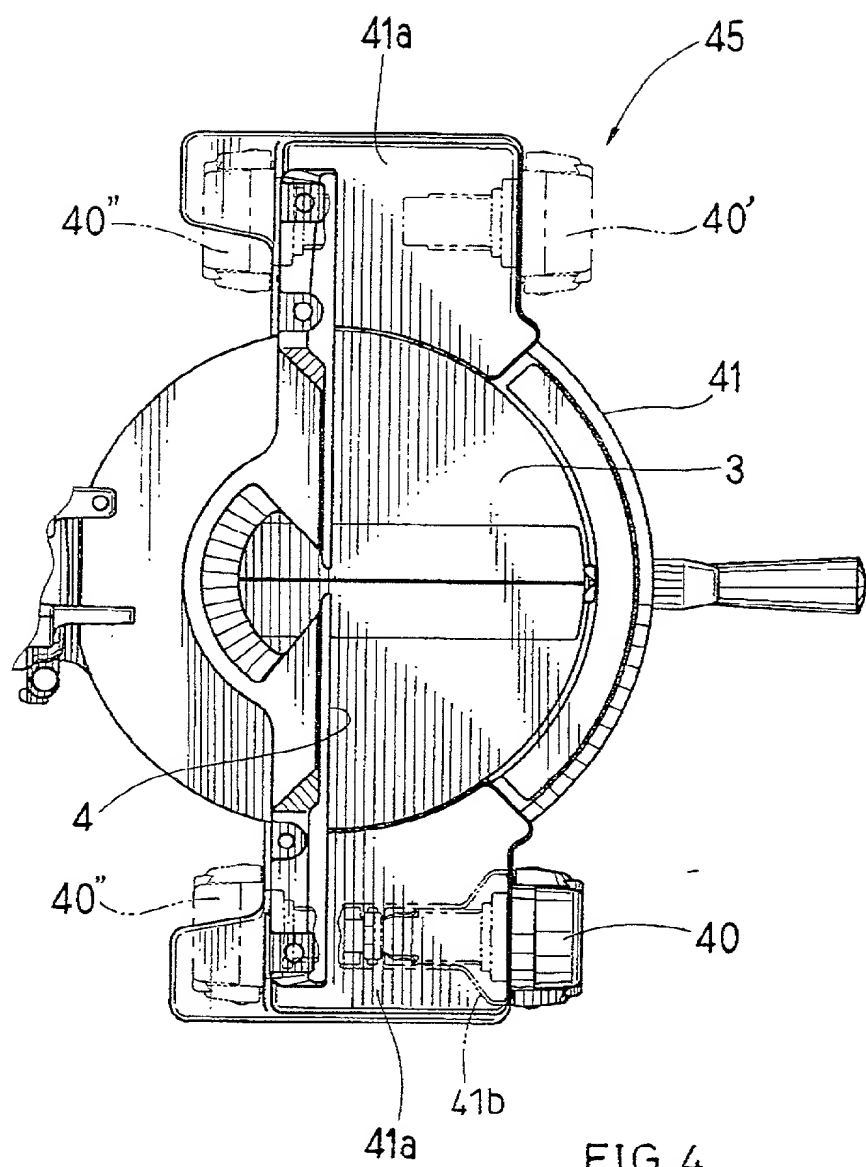
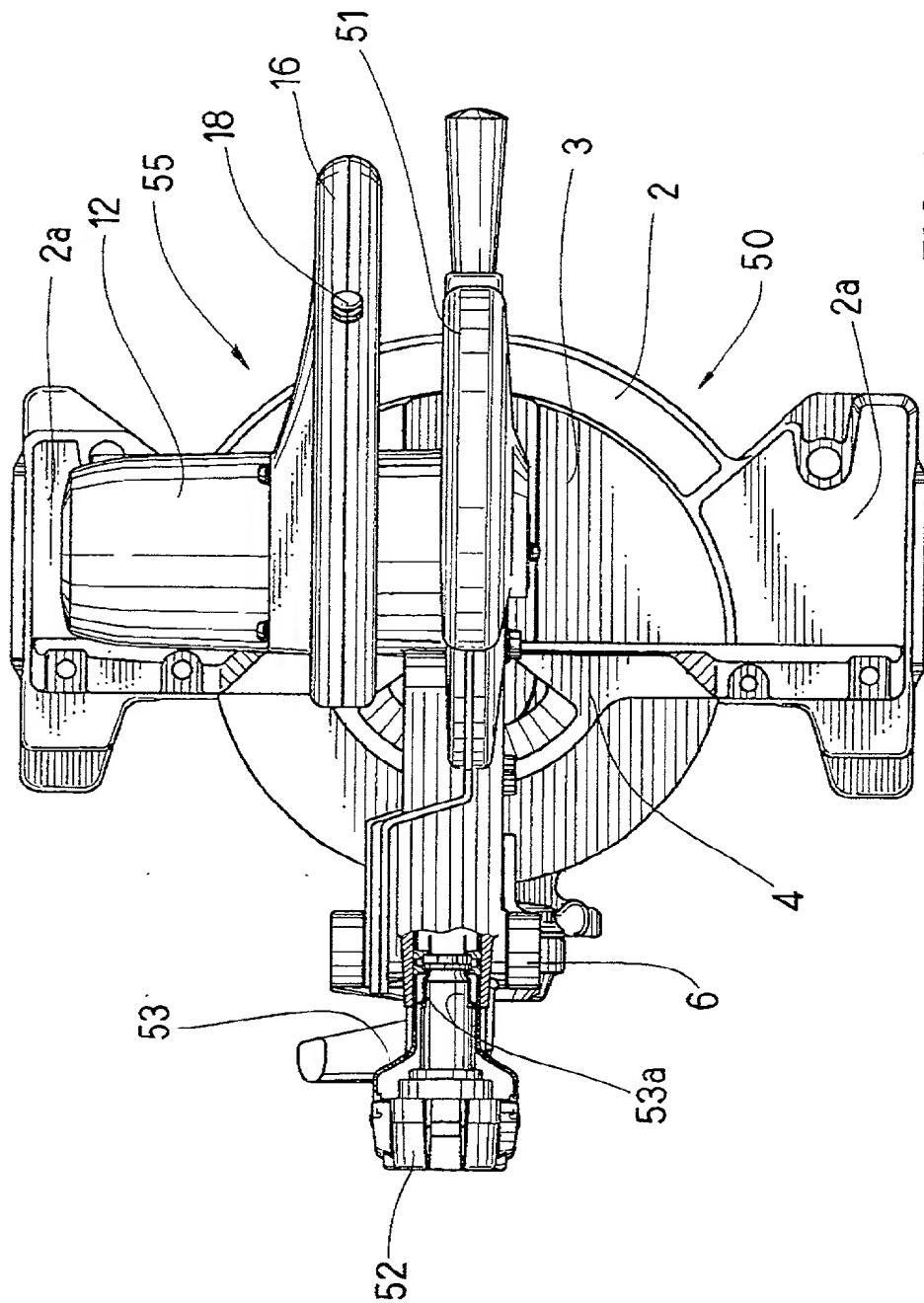


FIG. 4







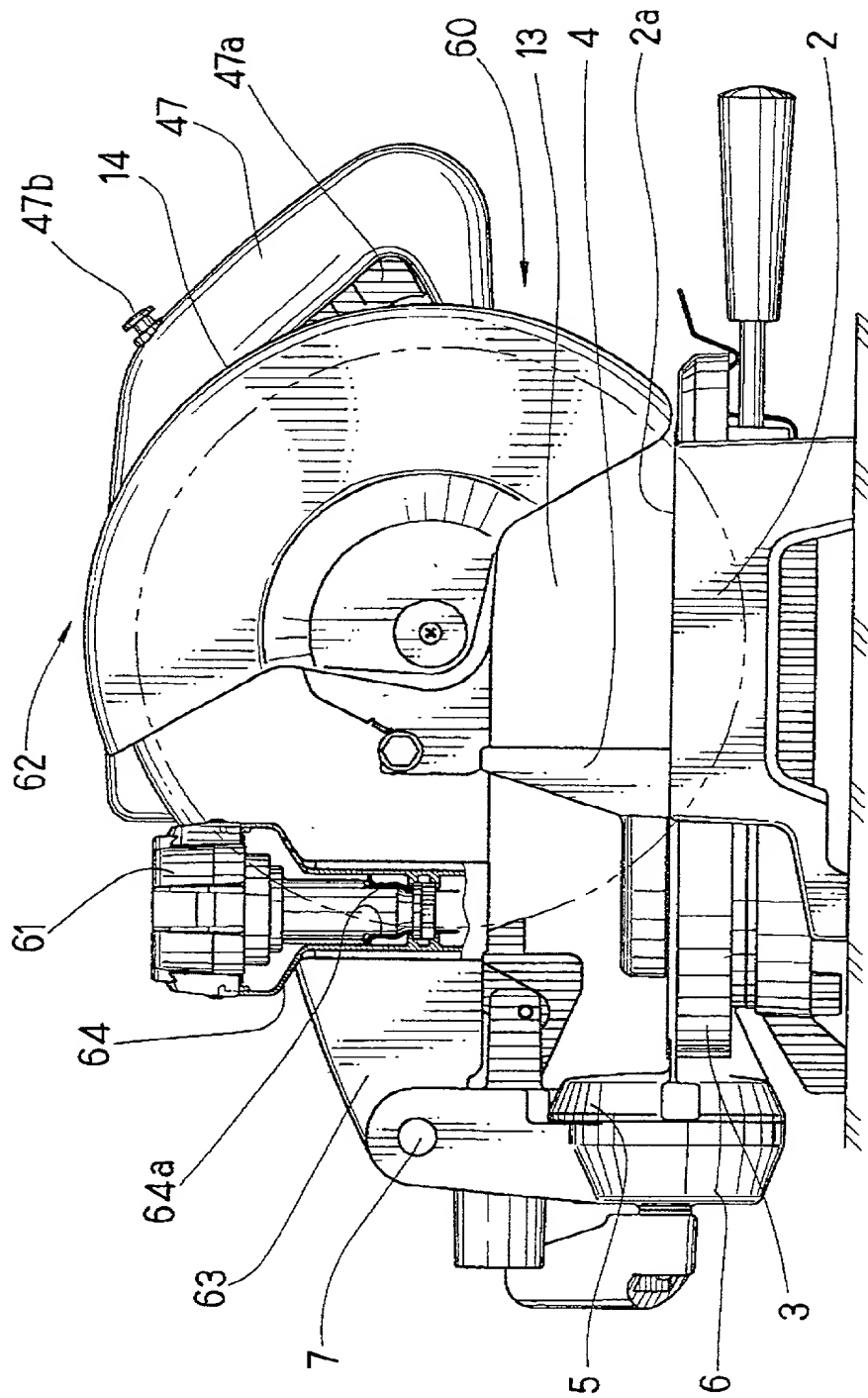
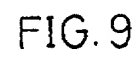
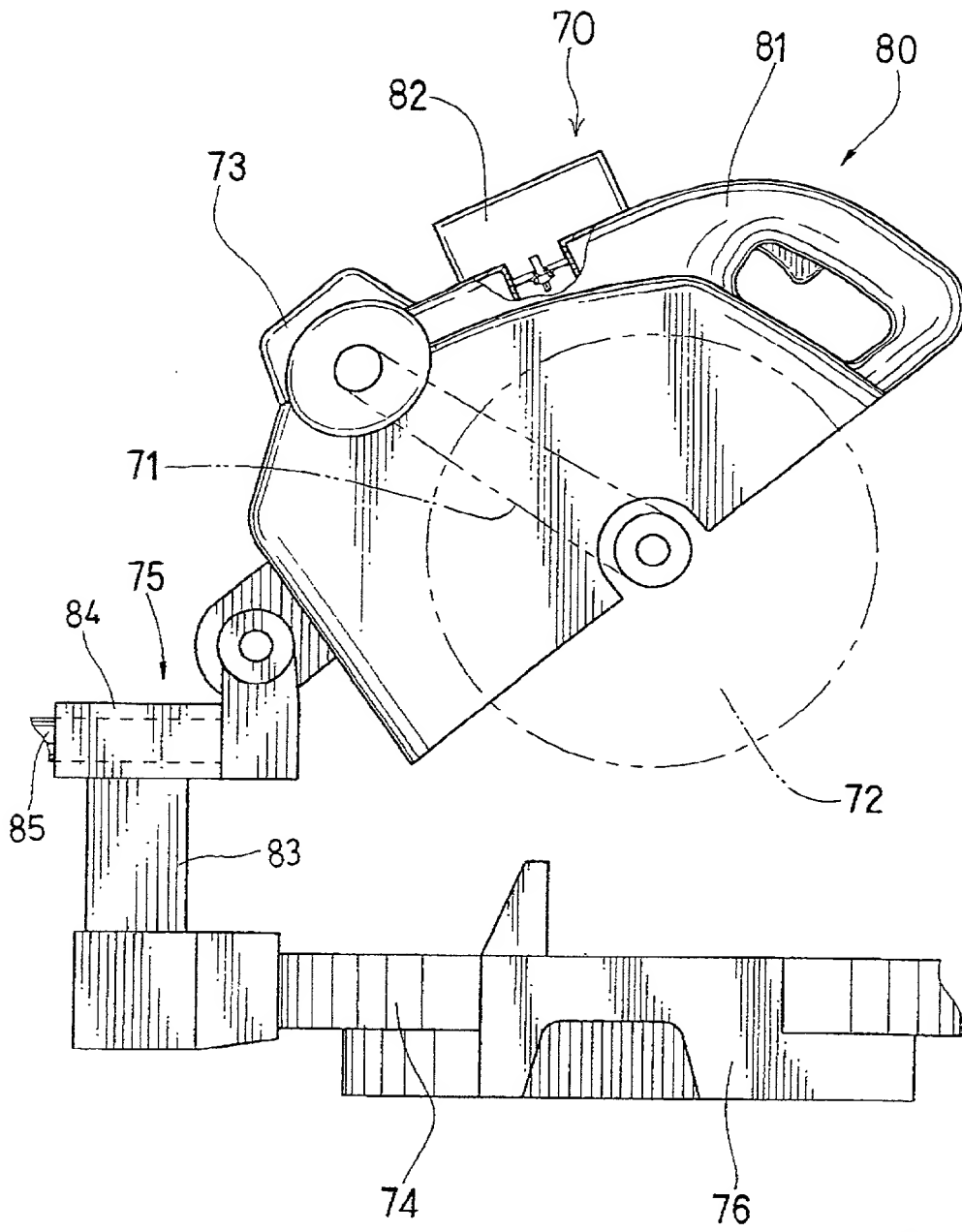


FIG. 8



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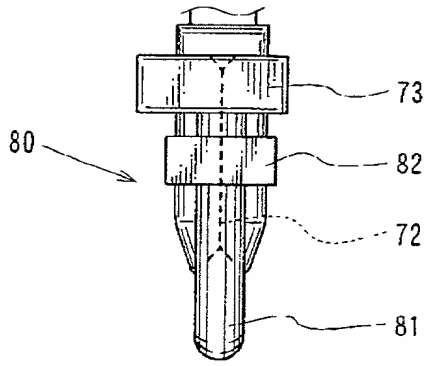


FIG.11

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Figure 1 displays Northern blot analysis of 18S rRNA and GAPDH mRNA levels in various tissues. The figure is organized into two columns of six panels each, labeled (a) through (f). The left column shows 18S rRNA levels, and the right column shows GAPDH mRNA levels. Each panel includes a densitometric plot and a table of values.

18S rRNA Densitometric Data:

Tissue	18S rRNA (Densitometric Units)
Brain	1.00
Heart	1.00
Liver	1.00
Kidney	1.00
Muscle	1.00
Spleen	1.00

GAPDH mRNA Densitometric Data:

Tissue	GAPDH mRNA (Densitometric Units)
Brain	1.00
Heart	1.00
Liver	1.00
Kidney	1.00
Muscle	1.00
Spleen	1.00

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣誓書)

委任状：私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標庁に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。
(弁護士、または代理人の指名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

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(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)